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Association**

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Written Testimony of

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Labor & Public Employees Committee

February 26, 2013

***HB 6416 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE CHARTER SCHOOL
EMPLOYEES***

Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley, Representative Smith, members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. CEA, along with our colleagues from the AFT CT, urges you to pass HB 6416, An Act Concerning State Charter School Employees.

We believe that every employee, every teacher, in every Charter School should have a fair and unencumbered path to exercise his/her statutory right to organize. If enacted, HB 6416 could remove potential barriers for charter school employees to do so.

Currently, petitions signed by public school employees seeking to organize are presented to the individual school's governing body, be it the local board of education or the charter school governing council. Providing the names of those who have signed a petition indicating their intent to organize to their direct supervisors is often intimidating. This is especially true in what is described as the close-knit environment that charter schools purport to strive for in education. HB 6416 would alter that process so that any petition for authorization of an election would be submitted to the State Board of Education. This would provide anonymity for employees, as is intended and in concert with what is currently in the Teacher Negotiations Act for all other teachers.

On behalf of over 43,000 teachers across the state of Connecticut, I urge you to pass HB 6416 An Act Concerning State Charter School Employees.